



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***GOVERNOR NAPOLITANO REQUESTS FEDERAL DISASTER
DECLARATION
Asks for Dollars for Flooding in Pima, Pinal Counties***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano has written to President Bush requesting a Major Disaster Declaration for Pima and Pinal counties. The two counties have been dealing with flooding caused by summer storms over the last several weeks that prompted evacuations in some areas of both counties. The Governor is requesting federal help in the form of Public Assistance (public infrastructure damage) and Hazard Mitigation Programs. The Governor had previously declared a state emergency covering the period from July 25 – August 4, 2006, paving the way for the request for federal money.

During the last two weeks, assessment teams viewed the damage in the two counties. The information gathered supports the request for a presidential declaration and certifies that the damage is beyond state and local capabilities. The preliminary findings indicate there is approximately \$9 million in damages to public infrastructure.

The Arizona Division of Emergency Management continues to field calls from individuals reporting storm-related damages in the two counties. Assessment teams have reviewed damages relevant to federal declaration criteria. The assessed damages fell below the minimum thresholds for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Individual Assistance Programs and the Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program. The state and counties will continue to coordinate with the voluntary organizations for assistance to these individuals.